

STRIKE CRISIS.

Soon the railways of Britain will be brought to a standstill if 400,000 workers carry out their threat to strike. Once our railways were a matter of national pride; swift, efficient, second-to-none. Few will forget their immense contribution to the war effort. But now there is dissatisfaction on all sides. The public complain of poor service, irregular timetables, obsolete rolling stock, and the vast losses that have to be paid from their own pockets. The railwaymen complain of poor pay. Now they are demanding an increase, and unless they get it, the railways will be halted.

At Unity House in London, the headquarters of the National Union of Railwaymen, discussions are under way to arrange full details of the strike. Assured that 26 district councils are in favour of the stoppage, President Stafford and other members of the N.U.R. executive make their decisions. The General Secretary of the Union, Mr. Campbell is on the left. Unless there is a last-minute change of plan, it seems certain that the strike will take place, so determined are the railwaymen. A strike on such a wide scale would hamstring the country within a matter of days. Another strike that made headlines took place at Coventry when 11,000 employees of the Standard Motor Company stopped work following the dismissal of 13 men after a dispute. But a mass meeting the strikers voted to return to work. This follows negotiations between the management and union officials. It's to be hoped that a similar ending can be written to the nation-wide rail crisis.

